**Post:**

What have you learned this week about working in a collaborative authoring environment?  
To be honest, I don't think I learned a lot new about working in a collaborative environment. I did become more aware of all the different technologies that are available to help facilitate a collaborative authoring environment. "If one subscribes to a philosophy of constructivist learning and a belief that creating online communities helps students to learn, one needs the tools to support the activities." (Solomon & Schrum, 2007) The business world is using more and more of these tools to help in collaboration due to the convenience and cost of the technology. Education is slowly realizing their value, but the ball is rolling. (Friedman et al. , 2005) summarize what one should expect to see in a learning organization. First and foremost is the belief in continuous and collective learning, knowledge sharing, and collaboration.   
One thing that seems to be important in the success of a collaborative environment is a sense of equality with the participants. "Knowledge sharing is awkward to implement in pyramid-shaped organizations with tall hierarchical  
organizational structures, i.e., characterized by numerous layers of management. It works much better where there is a flat organizational structure with a relatively short chain of command." (Friedman et al. , 2005)

**Responses:**

I agree that in our learning organizations, namely our classrooms, there should be "...continuous and collective learning, knowledge sharing, and collaboration." I think by and large this happens when students are allowed to work in group settings. It is very easy to accomplish in computer labs because most are designed so that students are in close proximity to each other. They can not help but share; even though I have had a few students who are so introverted that it is impossible for them to open up to others around them. I encourage my students to talk and collaborate, to share and peer tutor, and to problem solve in pairs before asking me for help.

I agree and disagree with you at the same time. We did not get any experience in working collaboratively to create a website. We did however get a chance to collaborate and exchange ideas on how to fix the problems we encountered with technology. If anything, this week seemed like more of challenge in the thinking tech-savvy and problem solving.